

What is claimed is:

1. A sensor device for determining the intensity of incident light depending on the direction of the light, the sensor device comprising:

at least one orientation characteristic element, through which the light striking the sensor device, depending on the angle of incidence, can pass;

at least one light-sensitive sensor element, which can detect the light that passed through the orientation characteristic element; and

at least one absorption element, which is able to absorb the light striking the sensor device and/or the light having passed through the orientation characteristic element in such a way that the light power striking the light-sensitive sensor element does not exceed a predetermined value,

wherein the absorption element is formed as a reflecting surface.

2. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the reflecting surface is arranged in such a way that the light having passed through the orientation characteristic element can be reflected by the reflecting surface, wherein a portion of the reflected light can be detected by the sensor element.

3. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the reflecting surface has a shape, a coarseness, and/or a reflectivity in order to achieve a desired absorption of the light striking the reflecting surface.

4. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor device has a housing, and wherein the housing has at least a partial cover.

5. The sensor device according to claim 4, wherein the orientation characteristic element is located on or in the cover.

6. The sensor device according to claim 4, wherein the reflecting surface is located inside the housing on a partial surface of the housing.

7. The sensor device according to claim 5, wherein the orientation characteristic element is an optic that is molded to the cover, through which the light striking the sensor device is at least partially diverted to the reflecting surface.
8. The sensor device according to claim 7, wherein the molded optic is a curvature, a lens, and/or a Fresnel lens.
9. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor element is an infrared-sensitive sensor element.
10. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor element detects light in the visible region.
11. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor element detects light in the infrared region.
12. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor element detects light in the visible region and the infrared region.
13. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor device is for a motor vehicle.
14. The sensor device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor device provides an output to control a heating and cooling system.
15. A light sensor comprising:
 - a housing;
 - an orientation characteristic element for enabling a predetermined amount of light radiation to pass there through, the orientation characteristic element being provided on the housing; and
 - a reflecting surface for receiving the predetermined amount of light radiation passed through the orientation characteristic element, the reflecting

surface directing at least a portion of the predetermined amount of light towards a sensor element, which detects the at least a portion of the predetermined amount of light.

16. The light sensor according to claim 15, wherein the orientation characteristic element directs the predetermine amount of light radiation towards the reflecting surface.

17. The light sensor according to claim 15, wherein the at least a portion of the predetermined amount of light directed towards the sensor element by the reflecting surface has a value being less than a predetermined threshold.